

State of



Connecticut

By His Excellency JOHN G. ROWLAND, Governor: an

## Official Statement

*A*rson is the deliberate destruction of property by setting fire to it. The arsonist can also be accused of the crime of murder when an arson fire results in the death of a person.

*A*rson is an ugly crime that is motivated by malice, hatred or financial gain.

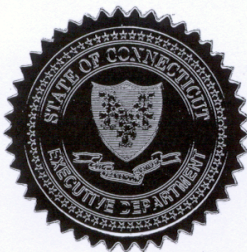
*A*rson blights cities and neighborhoods, disrupts the economy, destroys buildings and property, causes unemployment and instability within the community.

*I*n this state, during the past four years alone there were nearly 5,000 arson fires. Seventeen persons lost their lives as a result. The dollar loss totaled \$30,777,433.

*B*etween 1991 and 2000, there have been 28,222 arson and suspected arson fires. These fires caused 45 deaths and were responsible for a total financial loss of \$181,745,710.

*A*rson is a destructive, expensive crime wherever it occurs. In Connecticut there are thousands of men and women in the fire service and law enforcement agencies who are dedicated to the protection of lives and property. They deserve the support of all citizens for their efforts to prevent the crime of arson and to apprehend arsonists.

*T*herefore, I, JOHN G. ROWLAND, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially designate May 4-10, 2003 as ARSON AWARENESS WEEK in the State of Connecticut. I urge all our citizens to join me in recognizing that this crime places all of us in jeopardy and in commending those whose lives and careers are dedicated to the prevention of arson.



*John G. Rowland*  
Governor